

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Amendments to the Abstract are presented as a new Abstract attached to this document for insertion after the claim pages of the application. In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 1-10. Claims 1 and 6 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Amendments to the Abstract

In the Office Action, the abstract was objected to for containing various grammatical errors. In response, Applicants amend the abstract and respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Amendments to the Specification

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for containing grammatical errors. In response, Applicants amend the specification and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, without agreeing or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 6 and amend claims 2-5 and 7-10. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 2-5 and 7-10 conform to U.S. practice. Further, claims 5 and 10 no longer contain the trade

name Mylar. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 2-5 and 7-10 and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,541). Further, claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 7-76438 (“Japan ‘438”).

In response, without agreeing or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 6 and amend claims 2-5 and claims 7-10. Claims 2, 3 and 5 are now dependent upon amended claim 4. Claims 7, 8 and 10 are now dependent upon amended claim 9. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amended claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2-5 and 7-10 as amended. Applicants rely on M.P.E.P. § 2131, entitled “Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) and (e)” which states, “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Applicants respectfully submit that neither Horiuchi et al. nor Japan ‘438 describe each and every limitation of amended claims 2-5 and 7-10.

The claims contain the recitation of features that are not present in the device of Horiuchi et al. Further, the claims contain the recitation of features that are not present in the device of Japan ‘438. Newly amended independent claims 4 and 9 recite a sheet guide provided between the manual sheet supply unit and the conveying member having a pressing member between the special sheet ribs that supports the sheet other than the special sheet by pressing and descends when the special sheet is inserted between the ribs. When a special sheet is placed on the manual sheet supply tray it is inserted between the special sheet rib pairs of the sheet guide and conveyed vertically to the aligning roller. The pressing member, located between the special sheet rib pairs, descends due to the weight of the special sheet. However, when an ordinary sheet is loaded, the pressing member of the invention claimed in

claims 4 and 9 prevents the bending of the central portion of the ordinary sheet by pressing against the ordinary sheet.

In contrast, Horiuchi does not teach or disclose a sheet guide provided between the manual sheet supply unit and the conveying member having a pressing member between the special sheet ribs that supports a side of the sheet other than the special sheet by pressing and descends when the special sheet is inserted between the ribs. Instead, Horiuchi et al. discloses a protrusion formed of flexible film, having a lower end fixed to the surface of the outer guide 27a and another end formed to be in contact with the outer guide surface 27a. Further, when the trailing edge of a sheet P departs the bottom guide 25a, spring action of the trailing edge of the sheet P causes the flexible film to deform. Thus, Horiuchi fails to teach or disclose (1) a pressing member located between special sheet rib pairs, (2) a pressing member that descends due to the weight of a special sheet and (3) a pressing member that prevents the bending of the central portion of a side of an ordinary sheet by pressing against the side of the ordinary sheet.

Similarly, Japan '438 does not teach or suggest a sheet guide provided between the manual sheet supply unit and the conveying member having a pressing member between the special sheet ribs that supports a side of the sheet other than the special sheet by pressing and descends when the special sheet is inserted between the ribs.

The dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 depend from one of the independent claims 4 and 9 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5 and 7-10 are not anticipated by Horiuchi et al. or Japanese Publication No. 7-76438 and are therefore allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and claims 2-5 and 6-10 be allowed.

Conclusion

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-5 and 7-10 are now pending in this application. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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